Journeys to the North of Uganda. I
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## JOURNEYS TO THE NORTH OF UGANDA.*

I.

By Colonel J. R. L. MACDONALD, R.E.

You are all aware that in June, 1897, the expedition which I had the honour to command left England for Mombasa to embark on its journey of exploration. The route into the interior from Mombasa was chosen because it allowed of our using for about 400 miles the existing railway and road facilities to Uganda; this left us only 200 miles of land communications to bring us to Lake Rudolf, which, running as it does nearly north and south, offered an excellent waterway, which we could make use of with comparatively few men by means of our steel boat. Thus from the fertile regions north of Lake Rudolf, which we meant to make our advanced base of operations, we had by this scheme only 200 miles of country to open out to enable us to maintain easy and safe communications with Mombasa and England.

Our European staff was to consist of ten or eleven officers, our escort of thirty Sikhs and three hundred Sudanese, and our transport of porters and carts to near the Ravine station on the Uganda road, and afterwards of porters and pack-animals.

In September, 1897, we arrived at Ngare Nyuki, one march from the Ravine, with our two thousand loads, and everything pointed to a successful start being made, as our arrangements had worked smoothly. Then, as you are aware, the expedition had for nine long months to abandon its own work in order to turn its whole strength in men and material to the assistance of the Uganda Protectorate, which was threatened with destruction by the revolt of the Sudanese troops.

* This and the following paper read at the Royal Geographical Society, June 12, 1899. Map, p. 240. For notes on the survey on which the map is based, see p. 202.

The causes which led to this revolt it would be out of place for me to deal with in a paper such as this, and, moreover, they have been fully dealt with in the Commissioner's report. Nor will it be necessary for me to dwell on the military operations in Uganda otherwise than very briefly, in order that you may realize to some extent how much my expedition suffered, and against what difficulties it had to contend in its further operations.

You know that one garrison after another joined the mutineers until, on October 19, 1898, the rising tide of mutiny was stayed by our hard-won victory on Lubwa's hill, when with 17 Sikhs and 340 raw Swahilis we had to face nearly double the number of trained Sudanese. Then followed the weary investment of Lubwa's while reinforcements came up from the coast, and hardly had the first of these arrived when the escape of Mwanga from the Germans and the army of disaffected that sprang up like magic around him in the west claimed immediate attention and the division of our strength.

The defeat of Mwanga in January, 1898, on the borders of Koki was just in time to enable us to concentrate once more to meet the new crisis in the East, due to the masterly escape of the mutineers from Lubwa's. The offensive was taken against these mutineers, who were sharply defeated by my forces on February 19 at Kejembo, and followed up, surprised, and disastrously overthrown by Major Harrison at Kabagambe on February 24, successes which, coupled with the disarmament of Unyoro, compelled their flight into Wakedi country, east of the Nile.

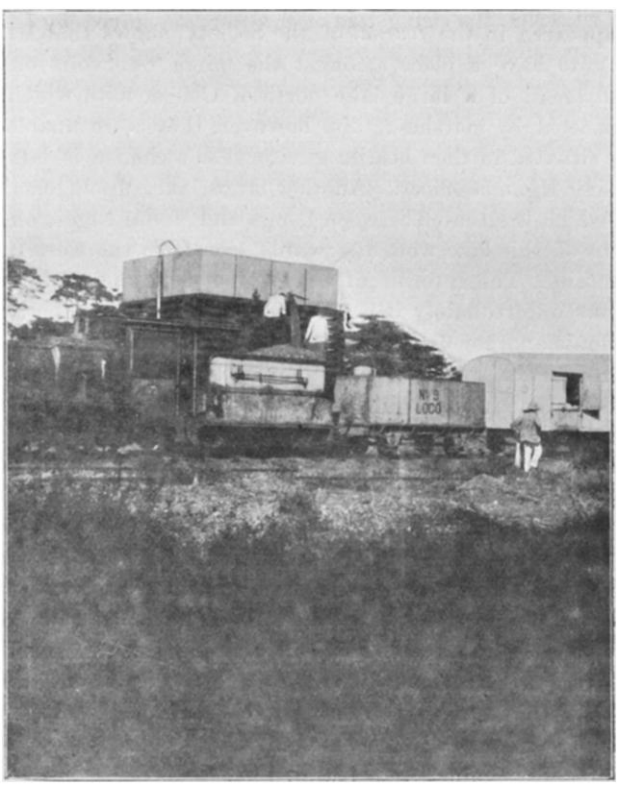
This victory allowed of our turning our attention once more to Mwanga's following, which had again rallied and caused trouble in the west; and it was not till May 3, 1898, that I was able to hand over military charge and resume the reorganization of my own expedition, with the knowledge that the Protectorate, though it would have more fighting before it finally subdued its many enemies, was itself out of danger.

During this period of anxious struggle the expedition had done more than its share of fighting, having taken part in some twenty-four fights, and lost 18 per cent. in killed and wounded, or 73 men out of the 400 engaged. Indeed, up to the end of February, 1898, some 60 per cent. of the casualties amongst the Government troops were in the ranks of the expedition, though it only supplied 30 per cent. of the fighting men. Nor was the actual loss at the hands of the enemy the only way in which the expedition suffered, for many of the officers and men had been seriously affected in health from climatic causes and the hardships of the campaign; our trade goods and stores had much decreased, and our transport, left to native supervision, had dwindled considerably during the rainy season, while the surviving animals were in very poor condition.

The Protectorate informed me that they could not make good our losses, and found that they could not spare the full escort of troops

which we required to continue our work, but seventy-five Sudanese, some cattle, and some trade goods were handed over to us.

When everything had been done, our position, as compared with its former one at Ngare Nyuki, showed what the expedition had suffered in saving Uganda. Our strength was reduced 33 per cent. in Europeans, 60 per cent. in escort, 43 per cent. in transport, and 15 per cent. in Swahilis, while our remaining trade goods would only suffice for four or



A STATION ON THE UGANDA RAILWAY.

five months, and the fresh supply ordered from the coast nine months before was blocked on the road by the reinforcements for Uganda.

On the other hand, I was fortunate in having as fine a staff of European officers as any commander could wish for, and a body of Swahilis who had learned in the best of schools—that of active service—to trust and depend on their officers and themselves.

During the fighting in Uganda geographical work had not been altogether neglected. In Buddu and Ankole the late Captain Kirkpatrick had added to our knowledge and discovered a small lake. In Bulamwezi Lieut. Bright had filled in a blank between the Maanja and Lugogo

rivers; while in the north of Chagwe and Namionjwa I had been able to rectify the existing maps. Lake Ibrahim was found to be non-existent in the form shown. During a reconnaissance in canoes on Lake Choga, I was struck by the fact that it had no land horizon on the east, and learned from the natives that it extended some 50 miles in that direction. It was not till some months later that this could be verified by a flying column under the late Captain Kirkpatrick and Captain M'Loughlin, which mapped out the configuration of the lake. This work, which has already appeared in the *Journal* of the Society, shows that Lake Choga is worthy to have a place amongst the minor reservoirs of the Nile. They also heard of a large lake north of Choga, with which it is said to be connected by marshes; this, however, they were unable to visit, as it was situated in then hostile territory, so a chance is left for some enterprising Uganda officer. Another large lake, Mpologoma, was also heard of which is situated between Usoga and Mount Elgon, and, indeed, indications of this lake were afterwards seen from the western spurs of the mountain. The interior of Usoga is not unknown to individual officers, but unfortunately it has never been mapped, so the Mpologoma region affords another field for local geographical enterprise.

In addition to this work in Uganda, I must not omit to mention what Major Austin had already completed during his journey from Ngare Nyuki to Save and thence to Mumia's, a journey during which he had not only secured new information, but had been able to correct mistakes in the work of others who had previously sketched in the country under less favourable conditions. During the first part of the journey northward from Baringo he travelled through the country of the Suk, a tribe who mostly inhabit mountainous country and dwell in little scattered hamlets of a few huts instead of in villages. They are not wholly pastoral, but their cultivation is in small patches which produce little more than is necessary for their own consumption. These patches of cultivation are often irrigated with a certain amount of skill. The Suk have always been known as good fighters who have held their own against the Masai, and, indeed, in September the expedition met a war-party of Masai who were returning after an unsuccessful raid into Suk country, where they had been very roughly handled by these hardy mountaineers.

The Suk elders candidly informed Major Austin that at first they had contemplated attacking his caravan, but that, after consideration, they thought he was too strong, and so preferred peace. The expedition evidently improved on acquaintance, as ultimately we became great friends, and the natives looked after the steel boat and its stores for some months without stealing a single bolt; and still later, when Lieut. Bright revisited Marich, the population gave him an enthusiastic reception, and got gloriously intoxicated in his honour.

Major Austin left the Suk country at Marich, and marched west

to Mount Elgon, the route at first leading along the Moroni river through a very mountainous and wooded defile, where the caravan only made good 10 miles in three long days. Once into the open grass country of the Guash Ngishu plateau, his column made better progress to Save, on the northern slopes of Mount Elgon, whence he marched to join the fighting force at Lubwa's in Usoga.

Leaving Mumia's in the end of June, 1898, we marched to Save by a route to the west of Mount Elgon, as the districts on that side were reported to be very rich in food. The southern and eastern base of this grand mountain mass, to march round which is nearly a month's journey, had already been visited by the late Joseph Thomson, Messrs. Jackson and Gedge, as well as by Mr. Hobley and officers of my expedition. The summit had been reached in 1890 by Jackson and Gedge, who found it contained a great crater-like depression some 8 miles in diameter. But the only previous traveller who had visited the western slopes was Mr. Hobley, who had in 1896 made a very plucky trip right round Elgon. He had kept at a comparatively high altitude, and found the route very difficult owing to the heavy ascents and descents over the numerous spurs. Our route was still more to the westward, with a view to avoiding so much mountain work, but even so we had to do a good deal of climbing.

One striking feature of Mount Elgon is that, while on the east it slopes down to the plain comparatively gradually, on the south, west, and north the gentler upper slopes end abruptly in a great line of precipitous cliffs, in which are situated the famous caves. On the west there is a great mass of broken and rugged ground below the cliff wall, and on the north there is a series of fertile terraces, but still the general features are as stated. The western slopes are densely inhabited by numerous small tribes of Bantu origin, who style their country Masawa. The cultivation is the most luxuriant I have seen anywhere in Africa; the hillsides are one mass of banana plantations, while in the well-watered valleys are extensive fields of grain, sweet potatoes, and beans.

Mr. Hobley found on the south that there was reported to be a tribe who lived on the upper slopes, called the Elgonyi, from whom the hill was supposed to get its name. We not only heard of the Elgonyi on the south, but also on the west and north, so I am inclined to think that the old name Elgon is more appropriate than Masawa, which is really the district lying on its western slopes.

The work of our expedition has enabled a fairly accurate map of the lower slopes of Mount Elgon to be prepared, but the more elevated parts will well repay further work both for the zoologist, entomologist, and botanist, as this mountain region appears to possess varieties and species of its own.

We had already established the most friendly relations with the tribes on the northern terraces of Mount Elgon, who are an interesting

people allied by blood with the Wanandi and Wakamasia. Indeed, I hope to show that these, with the Walako, south of the mountain, the Wakamasia, Waelgeyo, Wasuk, and Wanderobo are all fragments of a great and widespreading tribe which held the surrounding country before the advent of Masai and Bantu conquerors.

These Wasave are a well-proportioned but small race of mountaineers, not addicted to much in the way of clothing, but who make very handsome girdles and head-dresses by an embroidery of cowrie shells sewn on leather. They carry spears and large shields, and use poisoned arrows; the poison appears to be of the same vegetable type as that in use farther south, and is very fatal when fresh, and comparatively harmless when old and dry. The Wasave told us that originally their extensive cultivation extended on to the plains around Elgon, but that under pressure of more powerful tribes they had gradually been compelled to restrict themselves to the lower slopes of the mountain.

At Save, in the end of July, the expedition was organized into three columns. One of these under Major Austin carried out that portion of our work which was contemplated in the neighbourhood of Lake Rudolf. I need not say much about this part of the work, as Major Austin is himself to tell us to-night something of his experiences, but I may say that he successfully carried out the task I set him, in the face of great difficulties, and, though under most anxious conditions, has done a great deal of very valuable geographical work.

Another column was entrusted to Lieut. the Hon. Hanbury Tracy, who had to maintain our posts at Save, keep open mail communications, and organize a fresh transport corps by purchasing and equipping donkeys. This he had to do single-handed, and he did it with a success and punctuality which reflect on him the greatest credit.

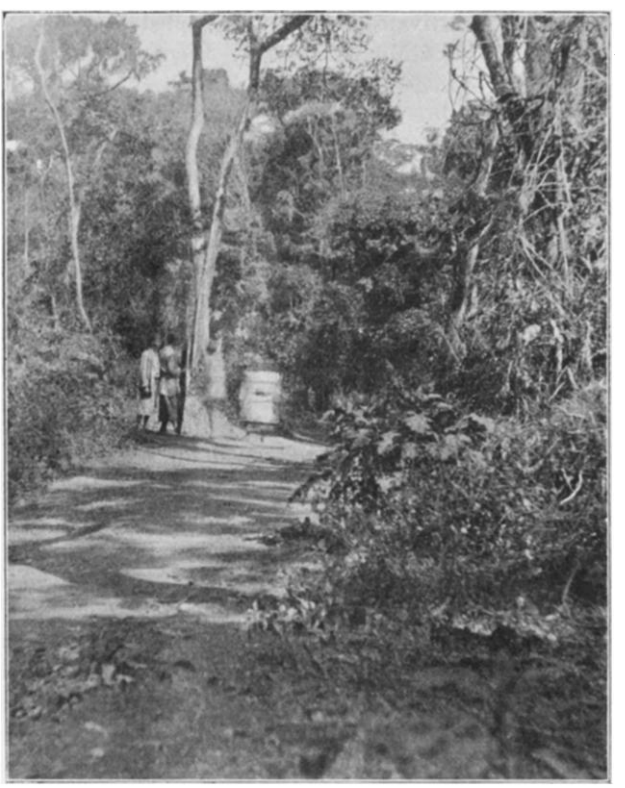
The third column, under my personal command, advanced northward into Karamojo and the unknown regions beyond, which were a blank on the existing maps. Previous knowledge of these regions was practically *nil*. Mr. Donaldson Smith had seen, when north of Lake Rudolf, great grass plains stretching towards the Nile. Mr. Cavendish, from the summit of Mount Lubur, beheld range after range of forest-clad hills. Jackson, Gedge, and Hobley, from the northern slopes of Mount Elgon, had described a great swampy plain stretching to the Nile. These descriptions were somewhat conflicting. Each was undoubtedly right from their point of view, but these points were widely separated.

So much for what had been seen. What had been learned from natives was even more vague. Emin had heard of Karamojo as scarce in water and rich in camels; Martin and others that there was no cultivation in Karamojo, which was inhabited by scattered hunters; while we had information of a rich country like Kavirondo, though no two people agreed as to how to get there.

When we first left Mount Elgon, we were inclined to think that

Jackson and Hobley were not far out, for our first four marches, as we shaped our course for the eastern base of Mount Debasian, led through difficult swamps, which drained into Lake Salisbury. We afterwards discovered that by keeping still more to the east most of the swamps could have been avoided, but knowledge of this kind is often the result of experience.

Debasien is a magnificent rocky mountain, rising to several well-marked peaks, the highest of which reaches an altitude of 9700 feet



VIEW IN NANDI.

above the sea. On its upper slopes much vegetation was seen, and it is inhabited by a weak and poor tribe who are allied to the Suk, the former owners of the country. Debasien was formerly wrongly named after the district Likakisira, which lies at the foot of the mountain.

Once we passed Debasien we found the country became much drier. It was at this season fairly well watered by numerous small streams flowing to the Turkwel, and for the most part consisted of grass land, with a good deal of mimosa bush and a fringe of forest along the more important streams.

We had now a good view of another mountain, Moroto, which had an altitude of 10,000 feet, and formed an even more imposing mass than Debasien. From this mountain a range of peaks extended to the Turkwel, and we learned that this range was inhabited by the Wasuk. These peaks were very useful, as they were common to the surveys of Major Austin and myself, and thus enabled us to connect up our work and secure a cross-check.

So far we had seen nothing of any inhabitants, except a small settlement of Karamojo hunters; but on the eleventh day from Save we arrived in the highly cultivated and thickly peopled district of Manimani, which lies south-west of Mount Moroto. Lieut. Hanbury Tracy had already pushed a reconnaissance to this point, and established friendly relations with the people. And we found they were soon on the best of terms with us, more especially as we had the good fortune to bag an elephant, the meat of which made many of them happy.

At Manimani we met a Swahili trading caravan which had just returned from the north. They reported a force of three hundred Sudanese ten days distant on our proposed line of advance, and handed us a letter they had intercepted, which showed that the people were in communication with our old enemies the Uganda mutineers. This was serious intelligence, as my escort was only fifty men, and, all told, we could barely put in the field two hundred and fifty rifles. I accordingly determined to leave all our heavy baggage and transport at Manimani under a small escort, and push on with a light fighting column of two hundred rifles, to ascertain the attitude of the Sudanese before committing my heavily laden caravan to a possibly powerful hostile combination.

From Manimani our route lay west-north-west to the Karamojo district of Bukora, which was of even greater extent and more highly cultivated than Manimani. Indeed, the amount of cultivation in this part of Karamojo was very striking, consisting as it did almost entirely of millet. The river Akinyo, which rises in Mount Moroto, and flows through the districts of Manimani and Bukora, has a sandy bed 40 to 60 yards in width, and with well-defined clay banks. Water flows during the rains, and can always be found a few feet below the surface in the driest of seasons.

The Karamojo people are a magnificently developed people of great stature; indeed, they appeared to us as almost gigantic after our stay amongst the Wasave. To give some idea of this, I may mention that our Sikh escort, picked men from two of the finest Sikh regiments in India, did not look big men amongst a crowd of the Wakaramojo. The Wakaramojo have a very warlike reputation, and it was not hard to believe this well founded, since, living as they do in an open grass country in flimsy villages, and possessing immense herds of cattle, donkeys, sheep, and goats, they must be stout fighters to protect their

property. I rather fancy they are also excellent raiders, as there was a suspicious dearth of live stock amongst the weaker tribes on the borders of their country. We found them, however, most friendly to Europeans, frank and outspoken, and without exception the most honest race of savages I have ever dealt with in Africa. The people live in small scattered kraals, each of which is surrounded by a light stockade of branches. The huts are small, and are thatched in successive layers, which give them an unusual appearance. Their live stock is driven into the kraals at night, and the extremely small entrance closed with a thorn bush.

Each village or little group of villages has its own chief, but important matters are settled by a council of all the chiefs, and as there are very strict and recognized rules regarding the settlement of serious disputes, there is no fighting between these numerous settlements. In case of war against surrounding tribes, the council of chiefs elect two fighting leaders; in this respect, as indeed in many of their customs, they resemble the Masai.

The women have perhaps more latitude allowed them in Karamojo than in most African tribes, as marriage is not merely a matter of barter. If the girl objects to marry her suitor, her refusal is absolute and settles the matter. This fact naturally makes the relations of the sexes more in keeping with civilized ideas. The women are decently clothed in skins, but the men wear no clothing, unless the extraordinary felted head-dress, which hangs low over their shoulders, is classed as clothing. This head-dress has already been described by other travellers, as it is also worn by the Turkana and Suk.

A Karamojo warrior, with his felted hair-bag decked with ostrich feather, his iron collar and ivory bangles, is a very striking sight. He carries two spears, which can be used either for throwing or stabbing, a knobkerry, and a very small light shield made of hide. Many also wear a small circular wrist-knife, with which terrible wounds can be inflicted in a rough and tumble. The cutting edges of the knife and of the spear-heads are carefully protected by ingenious sheaths made of leather. Many of the customs of the Wakaramojo, like their language, are closely related to those of the Masai, and they have the same belief in one Supreme Being and in various omens, but into these there is hardly time to go at present.

From Bukora our route lay north, along the arc of a circle to Dodosi, another large Karamojo district of great fertility, and six days distant. The road lay for the most part over fine open grass plains, which swarmed with game, but in places where we threaded our way amidst small rocky hills we encountered a good deal of bush. The river-courses were mostly dry, but water could be obtained by digging or from rock pools, the position of which was known to our native guides. At Dodosi we learned that Karamojo extended northward for nearly

a degree, but that the plateau became more arid and uninhabited the farther north we got, and could only be traversed for a few months in the year.

From Dodosi, where the people were as friendly as in the south, we turned almost due west in search of food; for, though there was abundant cultivation in Manimani, Bukora, and Dodosi, the crops were not yet ripe, and grain could not be purchased.

On this western march to Gule we entered a new style of country as we neared the edge of the Karamojo plateau, which was broken by ranges of bold mountains rising from 7000 to 9000 feet above the sea. The rivers were now actual flowing streams instead of dry beds, and ran, to a great extent, through well-wooded country.

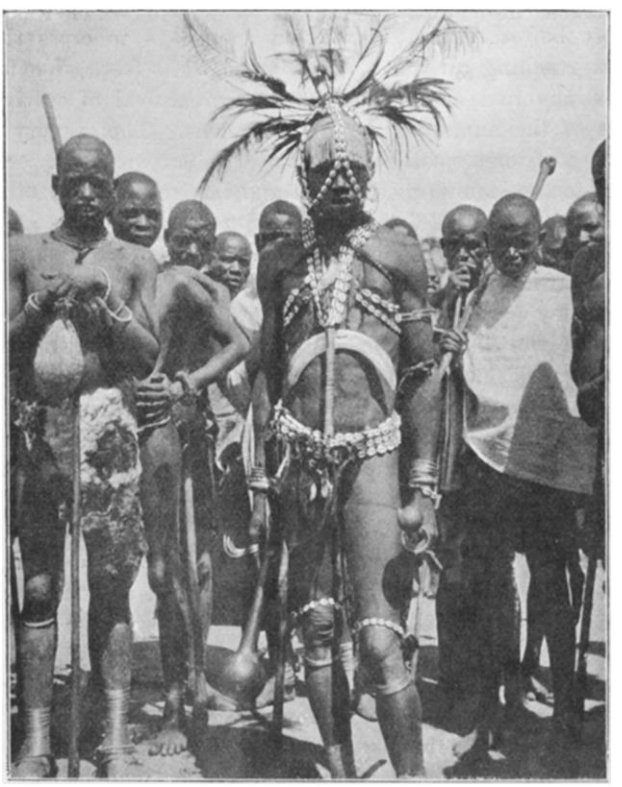
On August 21 we reached Gule, a fertile valley amidst the rocky hills of Rom, and at once sent out to invite the Sudanese to visit us. This they did on the 23rd. They halted their main body some distance from our camp, while their advanced guard with a flag and trumpeter approached us. On finding we were friendly, a call was blown on the trumpet, which was a mysterious machine made of gourds and leather, and the main body marched up in good order. There were, however, only two old Egyptian soldiers amongst them, and the remainder were trained Shulis armed with muzzle-loaders.

From these men we learned that the Uganda mutineers were beating up recruits amongst the old Sudanese who were still scattered about in this part of the world, and were located in somewhat unpleasant proximity to our further line of advance. One old ruffian calmly admitted he was an emissary of the mutineers, and had left their camp in July. Still, we had learned that these Sudanese were not formidable in themselves, and were grateful to them for bringing us a quantity of food for sale, as the local supply at Gule was insufficient for our wants. It was, however, apparent that additional supplies could be obtained from the neighbourhood, so on August 30 Lieut. Pereira and I, with most of the unarmed men and a small escort, returned to Manimani to bring up the remainder of the column and baggage, leaving Captains McLoughlin and Kirkpatrick with the bulk of our fighting men at Gule, to lay in a supply of food.

I need not trouble you with our return journey. Suffice it to say that, as we had only five days' rations with which to cover thirteen marches, we travelled fast. On September 11 we began our return march to Gule, but when we were about halfway most disquieting news came from that part. It appeared that the Uganda mutineers, reinforced by scoundrels of all sorts, were nearer to Gule than had been expected, and that hardly a day passed without their spies visiting our camp or its neighbourhood. Moreover, the local natives said they were afraid to bring us food, for fear of incurring the displeasure of the mutineers. It transpired that this was due to Jardin Effendi and seventy men

having reached a point only 20 miles from Gule, but when this warrior heard that we were the same people he had fought against in Usoga and in consequence left very hurriedly, the situation improved, and food began to come in plentifully.

However, the news led me to withdraw my advanced post to Titi, which was in the Karamojo country, where the Shuli sympathizers of the mutineers were afraid to penetrate. Titi had, moreover, the advan-



A KAVIRONDO CHIEF.

tage that it was open and healthy, and in every way was better fitted for a lengthened stay, especially as the crops were now nearly ripe, and in a fortnight there would be an abundant supply of food.

By the beginning of October the force was reassembled at Titi, and on the 4th of that month we commenced our advance to Latuka. Captain Kirkpatrick with seventy rifles remained in charge of Titi, while McLoughlin and Pereira accompanied my column, which mustered nearly two hundred rifles. We had not only the anxiety of having the Uganda mutineers on our flank, but had also learned that there was an

independent force of Sudanese in Latuka, who were thought by some to be allied to the Dervishes, and who might also be in communication with the mutineers, as we knew the latter had tried to win them over. To conceal our movements as long as possible, we chose a new route, which kept us under cover of the Nangiya mountains. At first we kept along the north-east side of these mountains, whose culminating peak is nearly 8000 feet high; but, finding that part was so overgrown with long grass as to make progress very slow, we decided to cross the range to Solian, where we were informed there was a denser population, and presumably better roads. It took us two days to cross the range, the passes reaching altitudes of 5300 and 5100 feet. We found the mountains inhabited, and that there was a great deal of cultivation by the banks of the numerous mountain-streams. The scenery was very beautiful, and from a small plateau above Solian we got a magnificent view right to the mountains of Agoro and Logire, which are the portals of Latuka.

All these peoples who inhabit Rom and the Nangiya-Solian range are Langu, but not pure Karamojo. Neither in physique nor in fighting-power do they equal this tribe, but they are friendly people, with a good idea of working in iron and of agriculture, and make use of irrigation to a considerable extent.

From Solian we pushed westwards to the isolated hills of Kiteng, where there was formerly an Egyptian post. The natives here were Shuli, but were very well disposed and anxious for us to make a stay with them. This could not be done, as it was necessary to push on. The chief of Kiteng, who had previously visited Latuka, volunteered to be our guide. Under his guidance we still kept west to Akol, another cultivated region round a small group of hills. Again we had an enthusiastic reception from the natives, who were most anxious that trade should once more visit their country.

It was a source of great surprise to these natives that I was able, from one of Smith's old maps, to now recognize some of the dominant points in the hills to the westward. Ultimately I think they concluded I must be a son of that distinguished traveller who had acquired by heredity some mysterious instinct for locality.

From Akol the route lay nearly due north to Tertenia, another great mountain nearly 8000 feet above the sea, and whose slopes were densely peopled by a very friendly and prosperous tribe. The villages were for the most part perched amidst the rocks and cliffs, and evidently the sites were selected for defensive considerations. But the amount of cultivation all along the base of the mountain was surprising, a grain called mwele having, however, taken the place of millet. The natives brought us presents of beautiful honey, goats, and fowls, and here we added to our train, as nearly a dozen men decided to accompany us to Latuka.

The country between Solian and Tertenia had been more covered with long grass and bush, and was far more trying to march through; but, on the other hand, the road was good, as there seems to be a good deal of inter-communication between the various settlements.

One march from Tertenia and we encamped in Latuka, under the shadow of Logire, a fine mountain whose summit is 8700 feet above the sea. Here we were surprised, I may say unpleasantly surprised, to see several men approaching us in the familiar Dervish jibbas. They were,

VIEW IN USOGA.

however, very cordial, and explained that, though Latuka had joined the Dervishes to save the country from devastation, and had in consequence been presented with a complete outfit of jibbas, the sultan and people would be most happy to see us, as there were no Dervishes at present in Latuka. We were also told that, owing to locusts, there was no food to be had in that country except ground-nuts.

However, there was food in Logire, so we halted a day and laid in a supply. Then we moved down the magnificent valley between the mountains of Logire and the still higher Agoro range, and that night

camped near a typical Latuka village with its high conical huts. We were at once visited by some of the village dignitaries, who wore the extraordinary Latuka head-dress, which resembles a brass helmet. These people did not wear jibbas, but when they saw our Sikhs they were much alarmed, thinking they were Dervishes, and were in two minds as to whether they ought not to go home and get into Dervish kit at once. However, they recognized that the presence of Europeans rather discounted the Dervish theory, and we were soon great friends. Next day we got amongst numerous villages, all built in strong positions, and for the most part stockaded or shut in by bamboo fences. The high-pitched conical roofs were very striking after the usual type of hut to which we had been accustomed. The Latuka warriors were also very picturesque, but we did not see much of the handsome bead head-dress which Baker describes. I suppose the fashion must have changed, as the brass-helmet arrangement was now in vogue. The arms carried are two long throwing-spears and three small assegais, the latter being very neatly worked. The shield is large and finished above with two semicircles, while the square lower end is ornamented with a tuft of ostrich plumes. A great many of the men also carried muskets, and not a few Remington rifles were to be met with, but the supply of ammunition was small.

At first the people were not inclined to let us pass, until the sultan, who has a very real power, had signified his pleasure regarding us. But their suspicions were allayed when I sent on an Arabic letter to the sultan. It afterwards transpired there was no one in Latuka who could read an Arabic letter; but that apparently did not matter, as they recognized the familiar characters, and decided we could be no others than friends.

The letter having been sent off, we proceeded on our way, and camped about 4½ miles from Logguren, the residence of the sultan's mother. That evening we heard a great drumming and shouting near Leggomen, and about 11.30 p.m. the camp was visited by five Sudanese, who were delighted to recognize old friends amongst my Sudanese escort. From them we learned that the sultan was highly gratified by our arrival, and would himself visit us next morning.

On October 21, the sultan, with an immense following, visited our camp, and we were soon on the most cordial terms. We found a few of the principal men clothed in a coarse cotton, but the large majority were naked. Every sort of trade goods was in great demand, but, as we had been warned, food was very scarce.

From the sultan we learned that the Dervishes had raided into Berri, 35 miles north, and were established at Bor, from which they have since moved in consequence of the Congolese advance. We also learned that communication on the Nile had been interrupted, and no gunboats were at Lado or even heard of. We had still in hand ten days' rations, or sufficient to get to Lado, but had not sufficient food or trade goods

to get back, even if food could be purchased there. Berri was said to be devastated, and the country east of Berri uninhabited. In the circumstances there was nothing for it but to turn back, but first we all visited Tarangole, which we found to be a considerable town about a mile long, and densely packed with huts.

The sultan showed us over one of his large huts. It had the usual high-pitched roof, and appeared to consist of a circular mud wall and a circular verandah. We found, however, that the roof was carried on the verandah posts, and that 2 feet of air-space existed between the top of the mud wall and the roof. The wall was nicely plastered, and

EMBARKATION AT LUBWA'S.

on the inside were some rude pictures done in coloured clays. One of these was a historical picture, representing the sultan riding on his state donkey.

It was interesting to compare our impressions with those of Baker. The first thing that struck us was the great dearth of cattle, and the sultan told us there were but few left in his country, though they still had large herds of goats.

Baker had noted that the Latuka people were quite different from the Nilotic tribes, and he was inclined to class them as Gallas. I noticed that most of the few words of Latuka which he gave were identical with Masai, and on making out a more extensive comparative vocabulary, I found the connection between the two languages was

well-marked. Indeed, the Latuka language showed an even closer connection with Masai than with the nearer and intervening language of Karamojo.

Our return journey need not be gone into in any length. During a portion of the way we made a *détour* by Kuron, and found a pleasant mountain country with fertile valleys, many of them well irrigated and inhabited by a friendly and prosperous population. One march was notable, as it lay through an extensive jungle of bamboo, at the low altitude of 4000 feet.

We reached Titi on November 6, to find that our post there was flourishing, that the natives were more friendly than ever, and Captain Kirkpatrick had carried out some useful exploration to the north. At this place we learned, for the first time, of the dispatch of a powerful expedition from Uganda in July, under Lieut.-Colonel Martyr, with orders to proceed down the Nile. You all know that this expedition was unfortunately stopped by the sudd.

On November 15 we began our return march to Save, but were delayed at Bukora owing to the treacherous murder of our comrade, Captain Kirkpatrick, D.S.O., and some of his men by the natives of Nakwai. His murder was promptly avenged by a punitive expedition, which taught this treacherous tribe a bitter lesson; but nothing could make up for the loss of a brave comrade who had shared in our fighting and our successes, and had repeatedly been noticed for his gallant conduct. His death could not fail to cast a gloom over our return, as he had deservedly won the respect and esteem of both officers and men.

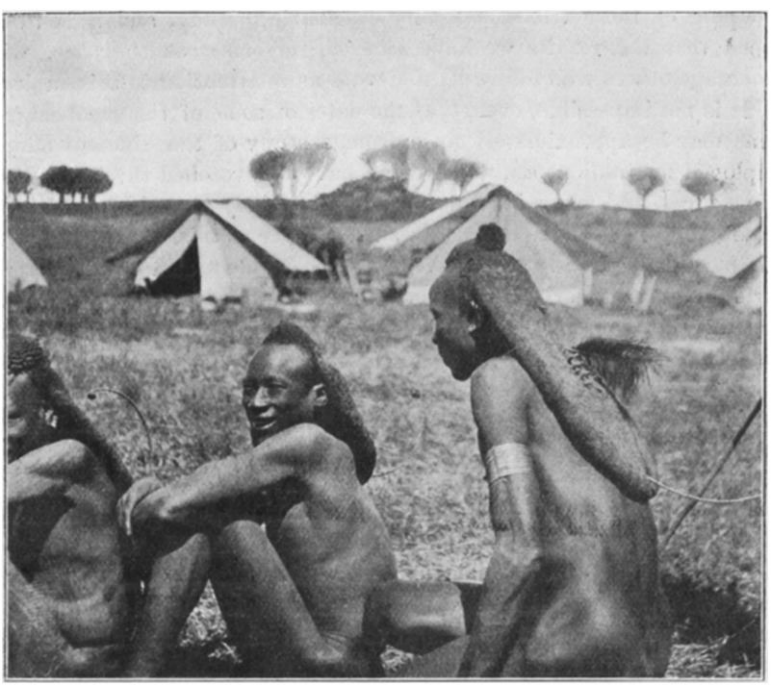
On December 12 we reached Save, and from there commenced our return march to the coast, which was reached on March 5.

The geographical results of the expedition have been instrumental in filling in a blank on the maps between Lake Rudolf and the Nile, and in greatly adding to our knowledge of the drainage system of these regions. The most marked result was the discovery that the high and healthy plateau, known further south under the names of Mau, Nandi, and the Guash Ngishu, runs far to the northward, though at a reduced altitude. Immediately north of Elgon, this plateau is much narrowed by the extension eastward from the Nile of a great swampy depression, in which are situated numerous lakes, such as Choga, Salisbury, and Mpologoma. Northward of this, again, the plateau throws out numerous mountain ranges with a general north-westerly direction; the most marked are the Nakwai, Lobor-Agoro hills, the Nangiya-Kuron-Logire-Latuka range, and the Morongole-Harogo range. From views of still more distant mountains, whose exact position could not be determined, the same structure would appear to characterize the country still further to the north.

The western edge of the Karamojo plateau, as well as its offshoots,

the ranges named, is well watered, but the plateau itself is far drier, and it is doubtless to this fact that, in spite of its lower altitude—4000 to 5000 feet above the sea—it is so healthy. Mount Elgon and the western edge of the Karamojo plateau would appear to mark the eastern limit of the double rains, while on the Karamojo plateau itself there is only one rainy season—May, June, July.

The same conditions appear to prevail further north, where the plateau cannot be crossed except in the rainy season. This, indeed, prevented our reaching the reported gold-producing oasis of Lali,



KARAMOJO HEAD DRESS.

where our Swahilis would have us believe a certain amount of English is spoken.

Another feature of this newly explored country is the great altitudes attained by its numerous mountains, varying as they do from 6000 to over 10,000 feet, and that several of the highest are as far north as the 4th degree, namely, Agoro, Logire, and Harogo.

Geologically, we cannot say much about the country, but shortly after passing Elgon we got amongst granites and schists, and in the more northern parts explored found thin beds of sandstone and extensive deposits of Kankar lime. Iron ore exists in considerable quantities, and gold is reported, though none was actually seen.

Elephants and game are very abundant. One interesting point I may mention was that the common gazelle appeared to be the Petersi, which has by some been considered a cross between the Grantii and Thomsonii. As, however, neither of these latter are found, this hypothesis would appear untenable.

One of the most interesting points was the investigation into the affinities and origin of the many different tribes encountered. The country in which our labours lay appeared to be the meeting-ground of the Bantu, Negro, and Hamitic races, and scattered amongst them were many whose classification had always been rather a puzzle. The elucidation of the grouping of these tribes is a very fascinating study, and it is to be hoped that the results we have secured, imperfect as they are, will encourage others who follow us to devote more attention to this subject.

It is not impossible, even, that the dates of some of the great migrations may be approximately fixed from a study of the different names employed for trade goods, which could have only reached them from outside sources, and whose local name would be likely to be borrowed from those sources. It is impossible, in such a paper as this, to go fully into this question, especially as we have not yet been able to completely compile our results in proper form for investigation. But roughly we may say that the tribes encountered would appear to group themselves into four main families :—

The Negro type, which has previously been investigated by others on the Nile, and which includes the Shuli, and the totally isolated offset, the Wanyipa, in South Kavirondo.

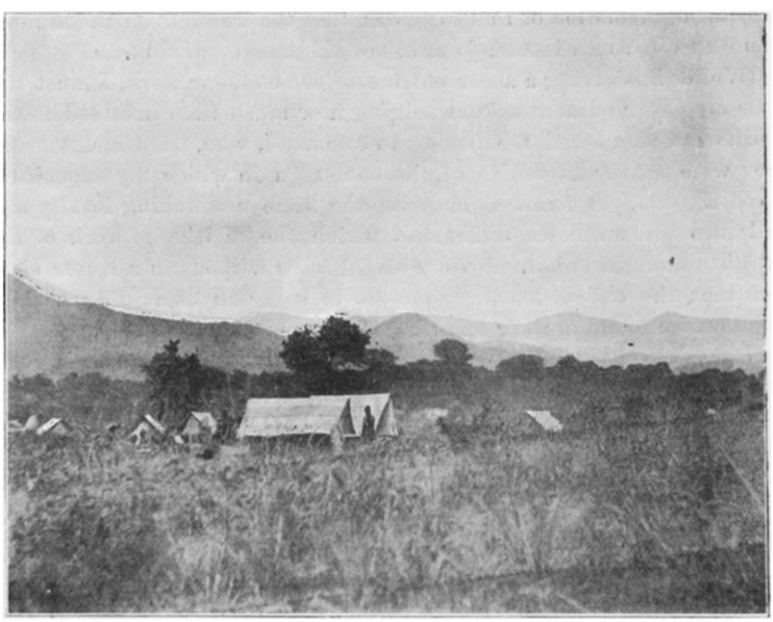
The Bantu group includes Uganda, Unyoro, and Usoga, Ketosh Masawa, and South Kavirondo. Then comes a great group of tribes which are of the same original stock as the Masai, whose origin has long been a matter of dispute. Dr. Cust places the Masai in the Nuba-Fulla group, while the Karamojo or Lango are placed amongst the Hamitic. I am not expert enough to say to which group they belong, but I can say that Latuka, Karamojo, Donyiro, Turkana, and Elgumi show so close a resemblance in customs and language with the Masai as to be undoubtedly of a common origin, and, moreover, show some connection with Galla and Somali. Strange to say, the Latuka and Masai* are more closely connected with each other than with the Karamojo subgroup, while the Karamojo, Donjiro, and Turkana have an identical language, and are amongst themselves admitted to be of the same blood.

The Masai, as far as I could gather, or to be strictly correct the Loegop, once extended from Samburu, east of Lake Rudolf, through the present Suk country to the south of Kilimanjaro. They were divided into three main divisions—Samburu, Guash Ngishu, and Masai. The Samburu are now represented by the Kore amongst the Rendile, and by

* Dr. Ravenstein pointed this out in 1884.

the people of Njemps, though they at one time occupied Lykipia; the Suk, pressed forward by the Karamojo, were driven into the mountainous country between Rudolf and Baringo, and the Samburu were thus separated and weakened. The Guash Ngishu inhabited the plateau of that name, and are reputed to have exterminated the former inhabitants, called Senguer. The Guash Ngishu, known to Swahilis as Wakwafi, and their kindred the Masai had a great war, in which the former were so weakened as to be unable to hold their own against surrounding tribes, and are now scattered dwellers in Nandi, Kavirondo, and Ketosh.

The Masai proper are the more southern of the three divisions of



CAMP AT SOLIAN.

the Loegop, and the only one which at present has any strength, though even in this case the process of disintegration appears to have set in.

There still remain various tribes which were formerly considered to be practically distinct, but these would appear, as the result of our investigations, to be broken fragments of a great aboriginal tribe which occupied the surrounding country before they were dispossessed by the inroads of the Loegop, Karamojo, and Bantu peoples. Of these the Nandi, Sotik, and Lumbwa people have previously been considered of the same stock, and to these have more recently been added the Kamasia. Similarly, Mr. Hobley established that the Wazako south of Mount Elgon are allied to the Wasave, north of that mountain, and

showed affinities with the Nandi, who again were considered to be related to the Masai. The Suk have, however, previously been supposed to be distinct, and I am not aware that any connection between these tribes and the Wanderobo, admittedly a broken people, has ever been suggested.

We find, however, when comparing the languages of the Nandi, Save, Suk, and Wanderobo, which show little connection with other recognized groups, that 33 per cent. of their words are alike through all four tribes, while 66 per cent. are common to three out of the four. This would, I think, bear out my contention that they are all branches of one aboriginal tribe, which has been broken and driven to the hills and mountains by the incursion of stronger races. And a singular confirmation of this theory is, that the dwellers on the isolated mountains in South Karamojo talk, not Karamojo, but Suk.

While thus giving a short outline of some of our work, I must not close my paper without acknowledging how much I am indebted to the officers and men I had the honour to command, who, tried and worn as they were by the hardships of the campaign in which my expedition saved Uganda, yet followed me with the same unflinching loyalty and zeal into the unknown difficulties which the legitimate work of the expedition might entail. No one could have wished for a better staff, and that the expedition was able to do so much as it did was in a large measure due to their unfailing support.

Our Sikhs have fully sustained the high reputation of their regiments. And the conduct of our Sudanese afforded one more instance of their admirable military instincts, and of the devotion to their officers, which is inspired by justice tempered with firmness.

Our Swahilis have, I am proud to think, in our hands, enhanced their reputation for pluck and endurance, and created for their race a new and striking record for soldierly qualities when led by officers they know and trust.

To the cordial co-operation of Europeans, Sikhs, Sudanese, and Swahilis, are due the results secured by the Juba expedition.

## II. LAKE RUDOLF.

By Major H. H. AUSTIN, R.E.

On the reconcentration of Colonel Macdonald's expedition at Save in July, 1898, I was entrusted with the command of a column to proceed to the north of Lake Rudolf, and I propose very briefly to try and give you some idea of this portion of the exploration carried out by the expedition. An advanced food depôt had been previously established by Lieuts. the Hon. Hanbury Tracy and Bright at Ngaboto in July, and Captain Ferguson and I left Save on August 1 to join those two

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# UGANDA P

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EXPLORED BY THE MAC

Routes traversed

# MAP OF
# UGANDA PROTECTORATE
## AND THE TERRITORIES TO THE NORTH
## EXPLORED BY THE MACDONALD EXPEDITION 1897 - 1898.

Routes traversed by the Expedition

Scale of Miles
40 60 80 100

Natural scale 1:2 500,000 or 39·5

F

# TECTORATE

## TO THE NORTH

EXPEDITION 1897-1898.

edition.

Natural scale 1:2,500,000 or 39·5 miles = 1 inch.




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